FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 APRIL 1986

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi troops crushed Iran's latest attack in the north, killing 842 Iranians and wounding an even larger number. The communique also said Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit another "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast. In the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian Navy intercepted a cargo ship suspected of carrying goods to Iraq, according to a military communique reported by IRNA.

Iraqi Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid told a visiting Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation that Iraq suffered huge casualties in the battles round Al-Faw, but he said that Iran's losses were far greater and that Iraq is fully capable of expelling the Iranians from Al-Faw, Kuwait's *ARAB TIMES* reported 31 March.

Lebanon

Two British teachers at the American University of Beirut (AUB) are missing, presumed kidnapped, according to an AUB source cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Jordan-PLO

"Miscalculated" unilateral moves by either Jordan or the PLO will have "grave consequences," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview with a Lebanese weekly cited by KUNA. He noted that his calls for reconciliation with King Husayn have met with no response and that "a common ground remains distant." 'Arafat subsequently confirmed that the PLO liaison office in Amman has been closed, according to Radio Monte Carlo, though he pointed out that the closure was based on a joint agreement between the PLO and Jordan.

King Husayn acknowledged that his differences with the PLO are "serious" during an interview with *JANE'S DEFENSE* weekly reported by the Amman paper *SAWT AL-SHA'B*. The king also blamed the Reagan administration for the U.S. failure to meet Jordan's weapons requirements, stressing that Jordan will turn to other sources such as France, Britain, and the Soviet Union.

Egypt

AL-AHRAM disclosed 2 April that the authorities have charged some 3,000 people with offenses committed during the recent riots, according to AFP.

In another development, JANA announced the arrival in Tripoli of an Egyptian Socialist Labor Party delegation headed by party leader Ibrahim Shukri. Meanwhile, Libya's Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio claimed that Egyptian air defense soldiers based west of Cairo staged a mutiny 1 April.

As for the seventh round of Tabah talks, which concluded in Cairo 1 April, an Egyptian spokesman cited by MENA acknowledged that differences still exist on the main subjects, including the names of the arbitrators and the question to be referred to them. Jerusalem radio said the talks will resume in 2 weeks.

Sudan

Government forces killed over 200 rebels in an attack on a rebel camp in the Eastern Equatoria region 30 March, SUNA reported. Omdurman radio announced that the polling centers were "calm and peaceful" 1 April as voters "throughout the country" went to the polls on the first day of the National Assembly elections.

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Party, State Leaders Discuss Land, Water Reform

LD301359 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The 12th general session of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA Council of Ministers was held at the Headquarters of the Revolutionary Council this afternoon, 29 March, for the continuation of the implementation of the land and water reform with the participation of a number of the members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee, officials and a number of the employees of the departments of the Central Committee, heads of the zones, secretaries of the party provincial committees, governors and chairmen of the executive office of the council of the representatives of the people of the provinces.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the party Central Committee spoke at the session.

It was pointed out in the session that all the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee's 17th Plenum and the guidance of the Babrak Karmal speech, in which the peasants' case was particularly stressed, should be transformed into a work and life procedure of all party, all state apparatuses and all the social organizations.

The land and water reform process should be carried on with the providing of real voluntary and all around participation of the peasants together with the extending of financial, material and technical aid to them.

It was also pointed out that exact observation of legality and respect for the laudable customs and traditions of the people are necessary.

It was made clear in the session that the land and water reform should be transformed into an (?instrument) for wide attraction of the masses of peasants in defense of revolution and their participation in the process of social change and improvement in the level of the agricultural yield.

'Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal, agriculture and land reform minister; Muhammad Shah Sorkhabi, irrigation and water resource minister; and a number of the secretaries of the party provincial committees, governors and chairmen of the provincial executive committees of the council of representatives spoke in the session and discussed their demands and proposals.

The session ended with the issuing of instructions and establishing the basic guidelines of work for the improvement of the land and water reform performance, improvement in the extending of state aid to the peasants and (?obtaining noticeble promotion for effectiveness use of the land) in order to increase the level of the yield in the current year.

U.S. To Provide 'Stingers' to Counterrevolutionaries

LD012043 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 1 Apr 86

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Excerpts] According to reports carried in the U.S. press, the Reagan administration is to give Afghan counterrevolutionaries modern weapons for the continuation of the undeclared war. These weapons include the new Stinger rockets, capable of being fired from the shoulder against surface or aerial targets.

The decision of the Reagan administration to supply the Afghan counterrevolutionaries with such advanced weapons was kept secret until now. Previously [name indistinct], a high ranking U.S. imperialist official said nothing about this, while such assistance was being secretly given to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries by the CIA.

The Washington administration, in order to justify its reactionary and aggressive policy, has embarked on the so-called tale of Moscow's hand and the threat of communism being used since the time of the October Revolution. The world's public knows very well that the objective of the U.S. policy is to crush the national and democratic movements in the world. Its policy against the DRA — whereby the U.S. Administration gives the most advanced weapons to Afghan counterrevolutionaries — can very well be perceived. The responsibility for all unrest in the world, and in our region in particular with killings and destruction in the DRA by the counterrevolutionaries, rests with U.S. imperialism and its allies.

Pakistan Strives for Nuclear Arms With U.S. Aid

LD300555 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 29, BAKHTAR — With the assistance of the USA, Pakistan strives to attain the capability of producing nuclear weapons, writes a BAKHTAR commentator.

The nuclear ambitions of the Ziaul Haq regime, supported and encouraged by the Washington administration, have increased the anxiety of the world public, in particular, the neighbouring countries.

Political observers believe that Islamabad has also included the development and production of nuclear weapons in Pakistan within the framework of its new military deal with Washington.

Undeniable evidences are at hand that the Washington administration wants to all-sidely Pakistan to become a nuclear power of the region such as Israel and South Africa aimed at safeguarding the U.S. interests. [sentence as received]

The feverish quests of Islamabad for acquiring nuclear weapons is well apprehensible, in particular, with the appointment of Abdul Qadir Khan as the president of the atomic energy of that country.

Abdul Qadir Khan is a notorious Pakistani citizen who was sentenced to four years imprisonment by a Dutch court on the

charge of stealing nuclear secrets from nuclear plant of that country.

It goes without saying that the USA chose the Ziaul Haq regime as the defender of its interests and objectives after the collapse of the shah of Iran.

In order to drag Islamabad into the US strategic noose in the Asian Continent, the Washington administration has put most sophisticated weapons at the disposal of Pakistan.

The supplying of 40 F-16 fighter planes, which are capable of carrying nuclear weapons, the construction of airfields for conducting of military operations in Pakistan, providing military facilities for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces in Pakistan, setting up of large espionage radar installations and other military installations in the territory of Paksitan are evidences that the Islamabad regime is playing the role of a gendarme of the region in the interest of the USA.

The Indian Government has expressed its anxiety on several occasions on militarisation of Pakistan by the USA, in particular the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Pakistan.

The provocations of the Islamabad regime against India and the carrying on of the imperialistic undeclared war against the DRA, in which the Ziaul Haq regime plays the main role, are indicative of the fact that the military ambitions of Pakistan will [words indistinct] with the acquisition of nuclear weapons with the help of the USA.

The world press, among others, Western press, have already disclosed the fact that the Islamabad regime is capable of producing five nuclear weapons annually with the help of U.S. technology.

While the people of Afghanistan, the peoples of India and Pakistan as well as all peace-loving forces of the whole world demand nuclear disarmament, they are appealing to all world public that the war-mongering and unpopular regimes such as the Islamabad regime, the Israeli Zionism and the apartheid regime of South Africa should not be given the opportunity to put the security of the world in stake.

Mujahidin Repulse Soviet Offensive in Konarha

GF020631 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Afghan mujahidin sources have said that the mujahidin are currently besieging a number of Soviet invasion troops who yesterday carried out an aerial landing operation in Konarha Province.

The Afghan mujahidin killed more than 200 Soviet invasion troops and wounded a large number during their confrontation of the large-scale aerial landing. The Soviet forces landed more than 2,000 Soviet commando troops around (Usama ibn Zayd) camp near the Pakistani border in Konarha. The aerial landing was carried out all around the camp in an attempt to besiege and destroy it and to exterminate the mujahidin inside.

During the past 24 hours, violent and bloody battles took place in which all kinds of weapons were used, including bayonets. Large numbers of helicopters were seen landing further numbers of the attacking troops and transporting the wounded and corpses.

Afghan mujahidin sources said that 25 mujahidin were martyred and 35 others were wounded.

Bhagat, UK's Howe Give Banquet Speeches
BK011419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 April 86

[Text] Britain has assured India that it would do the utmost to prevent its territory from being used as a haven for terrorists. Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said that Britain is prepared to work with India in every way to demonstrate to the terrorists that their activities have no place in our society. The British Government is also determined to take all measures within the law to deal as severely as possible with terrorists.

Mr Bhagat in his speech called for firm and sustained action to restrain the activities of extremists directed against India. Such activities have caused New Delhi anxieties and concern and it is difficult for our people to understand how a small group of such elements in Britain can operate (?openly) and with impunity, he said.

Swiss Foreign Minister Confers With Bhagat
BK020403 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The Swiss foreign minister, Mr Pierre Aubert, now in the capital on an official visit, has had a wide-ranging exchange of views on international issues and bilateral matters with the external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat. They regretted that there has been no progress on the question of nuclear disarmament and a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests despite last year's U.S.-Soviet summit meeting.

Steel Minister Meets With Soviet Deputy Minister
BK020357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The first deputy minister in the Ministry of Metallurgy of the Soviet Union, Mr L.V. Radyukevich, met the minister for steel and mines, Mr K.C. Pant, in New Delhi. They reviewed the cooperation between the two countries in the field of metallurgical sector.

USSR Turns Down West Bengal Oil Project
BK301044 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Mar 86 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 16 — The Soviet Union has declined to take up integrated exploration assignment in the West Bengal basin although it had earlier pronounced that the region was replete with potential hydrocarbon bearing blocks.

After doing detailed analysis of the entire West Bengal basin, the Soviet oil experts had maintained that the onshore region was very prospective for both oil and gas.

But lately when India offered to the Soviet Union to take up seismic surveys and drilling operations on its own in onshore West Bengal, the Soviet oil organisations did not evince any interest. They also shied away from the alternative offer of blocks in the Himalayan foothills.

Instead, the Soviets were keen to take intensive integrated exploration programme in North Cambay and Cauvery basins where more positive indications of hydrocarbon deposits have been available.

According to informed sources, ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] was not initially willing to part with blocks in North Cambay and Cauvery basins where it had already been operating. In fact, ONGC has struck oil in Cauvery basin and only recently started production at Narimanan, through early production system, to supply crude to Madras refinery.

Nonetheless, India agreed to assign blocks in North Cambay and Cauvery basins to Soviet Union, primarily, because of an attractive credit package offered by the latter. Constraint of resources has been a major impediment in the way of India accelerating exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon in the Indian sedimentary basins to meet the growing demand of oil. In view of this, the Government has announced last month third round of bidding inviting foreign investment for exploration work in this country.

A protocol signed between the two countries recently envisages an intensive integrated exploration and development programme by the Soviet Union in North Cambay and Cauvery basins. A feasibility report of the programme drawn by the Soviet experts has already been submitted.

Although the Indo-Soviet cooperation in the oil sector dates back to 1955, it is for the first time that a total turnkey assignment of this nature has been taken by the Soviet side. The programme is in pursuance of the agreements signed in Moscow in May last year between the two countries on economic, trade and scientific and technical cooperation.

Joint Economic Commission With Poland Meets in Delhi
BK020401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The Indo-Polish joint commission on economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation has begun its meeting in New Delhi. Both the countries are to sign two agreements for cooperation in the field of underground coal mining.

Bhutanese Delegation Discusses Aid During Visit
BK010957 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0902 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] A delegation from the Royal Government of Bhutan led by H E Dasho Lam Penjor, deputy planning minister, visited India from 23 to 27 March. Discussions were held on Indian assistance for Bhutan's Fifth Five Year Plan which is entering its last year. The Indian side was led by K. Srinivasan, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Agreement was reached on the level of Indian assistance to Bhutan's fifth plan which will total 141 crore rupees. This was apart from various Indo-Bhutan projects currently under implementation. Discussions were held also on various projects identified for Indian participation in sixth plan period from 1987 to 1992. Further discussions on Bhutan's sixth plan are expected to take place in autumn this year.

'Further Improvement' in Punjab Situation Noted

BK020316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] In Punjab, with the further improvement in the situation in Jullundur and Nakodar, the relaxation in the curfew is being extended from today. In Jullundur, the curfew is being relaxed for 12 hours from 0700 and in Nakodar for 10 hours from 0800.

The state government has decided to extend the date of voluntary declaration to surrender all illegal arms and ammunition till the end of this month. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that all those who declare will not attract any penal action under the arms act.

Bhopal Victims Warned on Union Carbide Offer

BK020359 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh government has warned the people in Bhopal against certain elemtnts who are persuading the gas leakage victims to accept compensation under the so-called agreement with the Union Carbide Corporation. In an appeal to the people, the government said that some persons are spreading rumors that their cases might be dismissed from the American courts if they refuse to accept the compensation. This is totally baseless, the appeal said.

Involvement in Sri Lankan Ethnic Troubles Denied

BK291232 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English
15 Mar 86 p 5

[Editorial: 'Crying Wolf']

[Text] Sri Lanka National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has offered extension of the suspension of air raids on Jaffna if militants "stopped bringing arms, ammunition and trained men from India". It contains a dangerous but totally baseless allegation. It has not come as any surprise to Indians because a particular section of the media in Asia and abroad has been spreading the canard that India is behind the Sri Lanka trouble.

One does not have to make any serious study of what this media section publishes about India and Sri Lanka and other issues concerning India to make out political forces behind it.

However, this is not the first time that this media section and certain countries have sought to paint a wrong picture about India — distorting facts sometimes without realising how and when they themselves could be victims of the falsehood they are spreading.

An example is the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. Although the Soviets had entered Afghanistan only six years ago and the U.S. arms aid has been going on for more than three decades, these two facts are connected artificially just to justify the U.S. supplies. Even the Western analysts now admit the absurdity of attempts to establish a nexus of this type.

It is also admitted that the Soviet presence is the effect (though not wholly so because the Soviets are there in response to the Afghan government's initiative) and not the cause of the U.S. arms aid to Pakistan. These lessons of very recent history should not be forgotten especially by Sri Lanka. Mr Athulathmudali's charge — if he is really serious — that support to the Sri Lanka rebels was coming from India is preposterous and fraught with dangerous implications. A sea lane divides the two countries and any smuggling would have to be possible only through this lane and this cannot escape detection for long.

Thus, apart from the absolutely impossible proposition from the practical point of view, India is against interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. If indeed India believed otherwise, the sub-continental situation would not have been what it is today. As Foreign Minister B.R. Bhagat has told Parliament India is keen on helping a political solution to the ethnic problem. But for that Sri Lanka should stop crying wolf.

Editorial Examines Zia's Comments on Israel

GF011602 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Softening on Zionism"]

[Text] Of late, disturbing voices have emanated from influential quarters, official and non-official, which are clearly designed to demonstrate a softening of Pakistan's stand on the Palestinian issue. In an interview with a Gulf daily, President Ziaul Haq urged mutual recognition by Israel and PLO and indicated for the first time that Pakistan might recognise the Zionist entity "after the Arabs have done so". Echoing this policy volte-face, Jama'at-i-Islami Chief Mian Tufail Muhammad referred to Israel as "a reality and the strongest country of the Middle East."

We would hope that such statements are not meant as trial balloons to test public opinion, as the first step towards a reversal of policy. The overriding aspect that must be kept in mind is that Palestine is not an Arab issue but one affecting the whole Muslim world as well as the Third World. Israel, as an illegitimate offspring of Western imperial designs transplanted into the Islamic heartland, strikes at the very core of the Muslim sense of identity and purpose. It is thus no accident that the Zionist entity's principal patron and godfather, the United States of America, is perceived by Muslims as the best friend of the Muslim world's greatest enemy. Hence the widespread anti-Americanism in the region.

For Pakistan and the Palestinians, any policy other than that of unrelenting struggle against Zionism is simply unacceptable. If President Zia is posturing under pressure, then it is understandable as long as the policy contours remain firm. For the Jama'at, which makes tall claims of piety and principles, to do so is a shameful negation of its professed policies and would only reflect its political and moral bankruptcy. Would this imply, under the Jama'at's convoluted logic, that Jihad is only permissible as long as it serves American interests?

THE MUSLIM Views Junejo's Stand on Alliances

GF011610 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Prime Minister's Assurance"]

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo in his first major policy statement on foreign relations has assured the nation that his government was opposed to military alliances and would not become an ally of any superpower. He has also renewed the country's commitment to the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and friendly relations with all neighbours on a bilateral basis. Nothing could be more heartening on Pakistan Day than this re-affirmation of the country's sovereign right to determine its own destiny freely.

Though Pakistan is no longer a member of any military alliance and we have in the past proclaimed our adherence to non-alignment, our long association with the U.S. and dependence on its aid has given us the image of a U.S. ally. The U.S. wants us to play the role of a "front-line state" and has often put pressure on us to pursue policies which do not conform to our national interests. The prime minister's reassurance should help to dispel apprehensions that Pakistan might succumb to such pressures and once again take a path which in the past has done us immense harm. As a self-respecting sovereign nation we have to maintain equidistance from both the superpowers, so that neither can take us for granted.

Reportage on Afghan Mujahidin Operations

MIG Shot Down

BK020231 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Afghan mujahidin shot down a Soviet MIG aircraft and three helicopter gunship in a recent major operation in (?Ghowr) Province. Some 65 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were reportedly killed and 84 wounded in the shooting.

Details of Qandahar Airport Attack

BK020623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 2 Apr 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin fired rockets at Qandahar airport last Friday [28 February], destroying 2 helicopters, 2 aircraft, and 5 tanks and killing or wounding 40 Soviet-Karmal soldiers. The mujahidin say they launched this attack in retaliation for the Soviet-Karmal forces' attack on their position southern Afghanistan last month.

NEPAL

Congress Party To Boycott Upcoming Elections

BK011455 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1 (AFP) - The banned Nepali Congress Party is to boycott national elections next month, following the breakdown of negotiations with the government, party sources said here Tuesday.

The two sides failed to reach agreement on concessions demanded by the Congress during a second round of talks late Monday, and the party was therefore "obliged" to boycott the May 12 election, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"This has left us with no other option than to boycott the general election and launch a peaceful non-violent movement throughout the country... immediately after the election," a senior spokesman of the banned party said.

The president of a second party banned under Nepal's partyless Panchayat system, Dilli Raman Regmi of the National Congress, also said Tuesday that this party would not contest the election under the present circumstances and the existing Constitution.

Nepali Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattari and General Secretary Girja Prasad Koirala first met with Prime Minister Nagendra Prasad Rijal Friday, when both sides reportedly offered what they considered "maximum concessions."

Mr. Rijal assured the Nepali Congress leaders during that meeting that they would be allowed to hold rallies and campaign in the name of their outlawed party in the runup to the elections.

The Congress leaders asked for Mr Rijal's cooperation in obtaining changes in the present constitution on such points as the requirement to take an oath in the name of the Panchayat both before filing a candidacy and after winning an election, the party sources said.

The party then postponed to Wednesday a formal announcement on whether to take part in the election, in the hope of meeting with King Birendra and obtaining the constitutional concessions.

But the party leaders were asked instead to meet again with Mr Rijal late Monday to finalise the negotiations, and the talks between the government and the country's largest pro-Democratic Party ended in "total failure," the party sources said.

The Nepali Congress had also asked to be allowed to field candidates from across the country for the 112 Panchayat seats under a single party symbol.

Panchayat leaders had felt that this would violate the partyless Panchayat policy and that candidates "should take part in the election on an individual basis without any party colour," a Panchayat spokesman said.

Mr Regmi of the National Congress said that his party "will not contest the election until the introduction of the plural society and until major changes are brought in the Constitution."

He described the present Constitution as anti-democratic and said that the country was facing a critical economic and political crisis which could not be solved without the establishment of a multi-party system of government and the dissolution of the Panchayat system.

The chairman and vice-chairman of the National Panchayat meanwhile resigned to be able to contest the May 12 election, an official statement said Tuesday.

King Birendra had accepted the resignations of Marich Man Singh and Gopal Chandra Rajbanshi, the statement added.

SRI LANKA

2 'Terrorists' Killed in Gunbattle With Forces

BK011149 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Four Special Task Force [STF] commandos were seriously injured and two terrorists died when a security patrol was ambushed at (Wantulaimule) in eastern Sri Lanka during the early hours of yesterday. Security forces said that the commandos from the (Morakunachche) camp were going toward Kiran when terrorists who had been [word indistinct] ambush had hurled hand grenades and shot at them; commandos injured and two terrorists were killed. The terrorists fleed when reinforcements from the (Morakunahche) and Kiran STF camps arrived. In a search operation that followed, STF commandos found the bodies of two terrorists. The injured STF men were rushed to the (Wallechenai) hospital. The STF commandos recovered [word indistinct] automatic weapons and grenades.

In a separate incident at (Morakunachche) on Sunday [30 March], terrorists shot at a group of STF commandos conducting a search operation. There were no casualties among the STF personnel.

A timing device was found in front of the Technical College, Colombo, last night. The army bomb disposal unit which was notified arrived at the scene immediately and exploded the timing device. It is estimated that 5 to 6 kilograms of explosives were packed in the device which on exploding [word indistinct] of about 2-foot deep.

Celebrations Held To Mark Republic's Anniversary

Musavi Speaks at University

LD011322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0930 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi at Tehran University on 1 April, on the occasion of 12 Farvardin (1 April) celebrations to mark the anniversary of the Islamic Republic — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the nation, [cheers and slogans] the leader of the oppressed and the Islamic revolution. [cheers] Greetings, to the pure souls of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution!

Our nation has shown that returning to Islam is the only way to honor, dignity, and independence for enslaved nations. It has shown that this is a successful experience.

Dear brothers and sisters, our country is the most independent country. Our country has been able to withstand waves of international plots which would have crushed any other regime. We are now in a position to sit in judgement and say that in the future this regime will be able to combat and defeat these pagan, apostate, and arrogant regimes more strongly than before. [cheers]

Are we stronger or weaker than we were in 1979? Did we have these united and alert mobilization forces then? Did we have a corps, the jihad, the Constitution, the Majlis? Did we have this extensive social awareness? Did we have an independent economy? Thanks to this economy we managed to end the year 1364 [ending 20 March 1985] better than 1363 [ending 20 March 1984], despite the fall in oil prices due to international plots, which shook all oil producing countries; our economy improved despite all the plots, the pressure of war, and the extensive difficulties placed in our path by the arrogant powers. No doubt we shall end this year with more steafastness and strength and with victory, God willing. [cheers]

Today, we are stronger than ever. We have the mobilization forces and the corps. Today, we have raised the banner of Islam to protect Islam and the Koran and to sever the hand of the aggressor. That same war which was waged to destroy the revolution has today turned into a storm to uproot arrogant powers in the region. Why are these reactionary powers screaming? Who are they afraid of? If they are for their people, if they are sound, if they are not dependent on the United States, why are they making such a noise? We agree with them. We agree that any country in the region which is dependent on the United States should be afraid of our Islamic revolution. We advise them that this dependence was of no use to the shah's regime, it was of no use to any independent power, and it will be of no use to them. To support Saddam and the 'Afliqist regime to bring about the destruction of the Islamic revolution is a waste of time.

Look at the opposition — those who tried to disrupt and defeat the system by relying on these same powers. Look at this university which they tried to turn into a battle front against the Islamic revolution. Look at today and the Friday prayers. Consider the disgrace of these individuals who are under the protection of superpowers. Those who were talking about a people's democratic republic are today taking souvenir photographs with King Husayn or seeking protection from apostate European socialisys and Mitterrand, in order to save what's left of them.

During this time our enemies tried not only to exaggerate our weak point but to make our strong points appear weak. Unfortunately, there were some ignorant friends who were deceived by them. Under conditions of war and revolution, instead of relying on our strong points against arrogant powers and instead of considering the fact that despite the imposed war; despite these plots and pressures in the Persian Gulf regarding the sale of oil, war, and defense matters; and despite everything else we have been able to achieve the lowest inflation rate in the world, they talk about our country's economic weaknesses. Our enemies take advantage of their remarks. We say to them: What country do you know, which used to be run at a cost of $40 billion with a population of about 34 million, could today in the year 1364 [as heard], manage the war and its economy on $15 billion? This does not mean that there is no pressure nor does this mean that we have no oil. This does not mean that we have no problems. This means that this country is not dependent on the United States. It means that this country no longer relies on oil resources and revenues but that it relies on creative, popular, and revolutionary forces. [cheers]

Our direct enemy, as admitted by reactionary powers in the region, has borrowed more than $50 billion to continue the war to destroy the Islamic revolution. From whom have we borrowed? We have repaid past loans. It is an appropriate point to mention 1 April: We are the only Third World country which is not in debt to world powers. We are the only country which can manage its own economy, war, and culture and not beg from anybody, and does not depend on any power, for the sake of our independence, our revolutionary people, and our popular Hezbollahi forces. [cheers]

Five years after the outset of the war and these plots and pressures, we are stronger than ever shouting our antiarrogant slogans. Today, we shout the slogan with even greater strength: "War, War, Until Victory!"

In connection with the U.S. warmongering and aggression, we still adhere to the same stance that we had on 11 February 1979 and 1 April 1979. We fought against U.S. aggression, hostility, hegemony, and crimes. We have stood against U.S. greed in the region and the world of Islam, and while vastly exposing the United States in the Islamic world, we have delivered deadly blows against it. The United States, once again, is demonstrating its bullying might to the Third World countries and the Islamic states. We, once again, announce this stance: that the struggle against the United States and its greed in the entire Islamic world and in our country will continue in various forms with the same power and ferocity as the early days of the revolution. The struggle will continue as before! [shouts: "God is greatest"]

We declare that despite the economic pressure and the imposed war and despite these countless conspiracies in various forms —

as we have powerfully shown up to now — none of these conspiracies will halt our movement toward a self-sufficient economy. Our movement will continue without us having to stretch begging bowls to any power. This policy will continue with greater might and power by our nation and the serving government, God willing. [shouts of approval] They had a futile hope that economic pressure would harm us, but it did not. They, recently hatched the conspiracy of lowering oil prices. However, a nation that has survived ups and downs and struggled against hardship, an aware nation that is working hard and producing, a nation that has returned to Islam, has demonstrated that it is capable of withstanding these ups and downs. We organized our affairs somehow and we shall rely on our nation, its vigilance, its creativity, and its initiative, which continues irrespective of the international problems and the pressure imposed from outside aimed at bending us toward the left or the right. We shall succeed with our capable hands, in continuing our independent policies, our economy, and our policy of: neither East nor West, Islamic Republic is best, with greater might, God willing. [shouts: "God is greatest," "Khomeyni is the leader!" and "Death to the United States, Israel, Saddam, and imperialism!"]

The last point that I would like to explain to the brothers and sisters is the fact that the imam of the nation named this day as the day of victory of the oppressed over the arrogant. He named this day in the year 1357 [beginning 21 March 1978] in our country. The government will, God willing, continue its policy of supporting the meek. It will rely on the oppressed, those who donate blood, those who form our dear mobilization forces, those who are defending borders of Islam, and those who are shouldering the heavy burden of this revolution and have shown that they have the capability of tolerating this burden and carrying out this divine mission. The government and the dear nation will continue these policies to which the government is a servant, God willing. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all. [shouts: "God is greatest"]

Further on Musavi Speech

LD011006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0808 GMT 1 apr 86

["Excerpt" of speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi made "a few minutes ago" at Tehran University on the occasion of the "Day of God," 12 Farvardin (1 April), celebrating the 1979 national referendum establishing the Islamic basis of the Iranian Government -- recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the combatants who are defending the great achievements of this Day of God in 1358 [1979] with their blood and lives.

As we celebrate this day our system, which is based on revolutionary principles, is more stable than ever. This is a sign of the success of these principles and the revolution and the correctness of the people's vote on 1 April 1979.

On that day there were some people who proposed a people's democratic republic, a republic, or a democratic Islamic republic. The imam called for an Islamic republic — not one word more nor one word less. Those monarchists who sought a republic, those liberals who proposed a democratic Islamic republic, and those left-wing groups affiliated to the East and the West who proposed a people's democratic republic all received less than 2 percent of the people's vote, because as a result of their experience in previous decades with these powers and movements, the people had chosen their path.

Today we are at a point where we can judge whether the people's judgment, vote, and movement — this movement and slogan of the imam — were correct or not. Today we have stronger evidence than in the past to show how penetrating the vision of the revolutionary leadership was, how strong and correct the people's feelings were toward the future and their own system and goals.

As we celebrate this day, all the hopes and dreams of the big powers for the downfall of this regime have failed. You all know that they had predicted that the holy regime of the Islamic Republic would fall in 2 or 3 months. They predicted that this regime would not be able to stand on its own feet from a military, political, cultural, and economic viewpoint. As one of the liberal leaders said at that time, they considered the establishment of Islam neither beneficial nor possible.

Today, in our present position, our nation's movement, self-sacrifice, and steadfastness have shown not only that the establishment of Islam is possible, but also that it is the only means for liberating mankind from the arrogant powers.

Ceremony Held in Tehran

LD011415 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 1, IRNA — Muslim Iranians held nationwide ceremonies Tuesday to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and renew their allegiance with the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Imam Khomeyni.

In Tehran people in well-organized ranks marched towards Tehran University to participate in a ceremony there to mark the occasion.

The marchers, chanting slogans such as "War, War Until Victory", "Death to the U.S." and "We Will Die but Will Never Yield to Compromise" arrived at Tehran University campus.

A large number of Iranian Muslim combatants including 10 divisions of Al-Quds reserve forces were among the marchers who announced their preparedness to fight against enemies of Islam and Iran.

Members of one of the divisions were equipped with gas masks and other protective means against chemical weapons.

Many domestic and foreign reporters, film makers and photographers were present at the ceremony to file reports and take films and photographs.

At Tehran University campus, where the crowd gathered to hold the ceremony, a message from the Islamic combatants was read.

Referring to the braveries of Muslim forces of Iran in recent Val-Fajr-8 offensive, the message said that the Iraqi regime and Ba'th Party, sustaining fatal blows by the Iranian forces, were going to be eradicated from the region.

It also called on people from all strata to rush to battlefields to continue the fight until the achievement of final victory.

Speaking to the gathering Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi elaborated the developments achieved in the country since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasized on the continuation of the campaign against global arrogance.

Musavi Interviewed on Combating Imperialism

GF301432 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 Mar 86 p 18, 19

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified *KEYHAN* correspondent in Tehran — date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] What peculiarities do the bases of imperialism have in the Third World and what successes have the Islamic revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic so far had in combating imperialistic bases?

[Musavi] This is a very detailed question. It concerns ideological as well newsworthy aspects. Imperialism and world-devouring, according to our school of thought, has its roots in the lust to acquire more and more from human beings. Sometimes this lust acquires the form of a worthy system and wins the society over to its own views. Then in its own interests this society starts to extend its hands of aggression toward every point in the world.

Of course, neo-imperialism, which can largely be attributed to American capitalism, is subjected to various views and a subject worth debating. However, if we do not take this peculiarity into consideration and explain imperialism as an oppressive power and its lust for devouring the world, we cannot say that there is only one single power which falls into this category, as all other despotic regimes could also be similarly categorized. During the present circumstances, it is attributed mostly to economic imperialism in Third World countries, but we know by experience that imperialism covets material gains, and swallows the wealth and resources of nations — whether in the form of their manpower, natural resources, or other similar assets — in order to run large metropolitan colonial client states. The grounds for this form of colonialism are provided by a related sort of cultural imperialism.

In other words, imperialist control is effective only when a society can accept a different culture or a different domination. It is quite possible that a culture may not submit to foreign dominance, and begin to resist and confront the imperialistic elements. Naturally, if this resistance originates from a cultural aspect, it does not remain only within the cultural limits, but influences economic and political regions as well.

What I want to say is that according to our experience the main peculiarity and the most dangerous aspect of imperialism, I believe, is their cultural domination of the Third World. Our greatest weapon against imperialism is alertness and awareness in the Third World. This weapon can weaken the bases of imperialism. Of course, this alertness does not remain confined to within a country's national framework, but can outgrow the borders so far that it might even affect the invading and the world-expanding countries. This is because the major problem here is divine conscience and the disposition of human beings and their pro-expansion aspect.

If we explain our own revolution in these terms, we can say that our nation has faced world devourers, especially recently, and the deep and widespread influence of the United States in the political, military, and economic dimensions of our country. However, when awareness and alertness comes in society, people rise to valuable systems and seek guidance from Islam. We see that the foundation imperialism had laid in our country to spread its influence is becoming weak and is collapsing like a house of cards. Of course, sacrifices have to be offered, but the fall of the strongholds built for the shah's regime was a shock to the big powers as well.

The United States became so frightened that in their haste they established classes at the State Department during January-February 1978 to teach Islam under the guidance of an American writer named (Zioncse). The same writer wrote a book titled *Top Political Figures in Iran*, which he had written after several years' research prior to the revolution. It dealt mostly with the situation in Iran as seen by the Zionists. A chapter in the book dealt with the top opposition members and covered the national front, the Tudeh Party, the liberation movement, and Engineer Bazargan, but concerning the imam there was but a single sentence. This indicates the blindness of the imperialism and the happenings within Iranian society. In any case we can discuss our anti-imperialist campaign in its various dimensions.

In one aspect we find the Islamic revolution is the strongest opponent of the imperialists; but in another aspect, our success in this does not correspond to the high aspirations of the revolution. To explain the first dimension, I will refer only to the present day situation. Let us see what the United States is afraid of in the world today and against whom it has mobilized all its forces. If we were to judge from the words which we find in dispatches and in their analysis, we could at least see some of the effects of the Islamic revolution in its campaign against the United States. If we look at the radio programs of the United States, we can see a very small degree of the depth of the hostility of our system in the eyes of the American imperialists.

A certain foreign radio program referred to the influence of the Islamic revolution in a country in the Far East. Although they use this terminology in a satirical and biting way, we welcome it. The mention of the influence of the Islamic revolution in a Far Eastern country which is very vital to U.S. defense strategy indicates the success of the Islamic revolution.

In Afghanistan, where Soviet forces are present, it seems that only anti-Soviet slogans were being chanted; however, thanks to the Islamic revolution and the strong campaign of the Islamic Republic against the United States, the people of Afghanistan now realize that anti-Soviet slogans do not mean pro-American slogans, and therefore the people of Afghanistan chant slogans

against the Soviet Union as well against the United States. This is due to the influence of the Islamic revolution. In the Middle East and in other points of the world which are considered to be bases of U.S. policies, Marxist and other ideologies vis-a-vis the Islamic revolution are downplayed. In such areas Marxism and other ideologies are not given any importance and they do not play any decisive role. The Islamic revolution is considered a danger to American interests, and has an effect on the lives of the people of the world, especially the Islamic nations. For example, the minister of culture of Nicaragua, who was a clergyman, is also one of the best poets in Latin America. He has written a poem on the imam and a book in the name of the Islamic revolution. During our visit to Nicaragua the Christian militant clergy used to say that the qualities which the imam has related about Christ are acceptable to them. Therefore, I believe that the Islamic revolution in its campaign against imperialism, in the form of neither East nor West, has been successful.

With regard to the aspect that our successes have not been equal to our aspirations, we should say that hegemony had been riding over our country for a long time, as a result of which our economic programs were framed in such a way that they were mostly influenced by the American economy and international companies. Moreover, our economy was based on our oil income. Our culture also was similarly dominated by the imperialists.

We do not claim to be a model Islamic society, but we are advancing toward it. Nevertheless, there are faces and popular movements that could be raised as examples in the world, and we have had good success in this regard. However, that which Islam wants of us has not yet been fully completed. We want greater efforts to be made in the field of economics so that we do not remain dependent on others. With regard to consumption, we are not a model for others and this must change. There is still a danger of a return to luxuries and easy life. If we deal with this decisively, we will close the doors through which the United States could influence our society. It is in this respect that we have had only partial success.

[Correspondent] Your first point, in fact, stems from the nature and ideological tide of the revolution. However, concerning the second point, the struggle against imperialism in the economic and social fields, they have not matched the high ideals of the revolution, although they have been within the sphere of operations and responsibility of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Musavi] Ideology has not only been in the form of beliefs, but also has taken practical shape through the movement of combatants and the nation. If the slogans we chant could be propogated throughout the world without the presence of the people, they would not have been so successful in practice. All of these things are related to the love for Islam, the Koran, and human values. If we did not have models and distinguished men in our society, ideology alone could not have had a great effect in the world. There has been much talk during the past 150 years concerning effective Islamic beliefs. That which this revolution has sown throughout the world and which has brought about change is the same as that which you see on the faces of ordinary people in the streets and on the faces of young men at the battlefronts.

[Correspondent] There is no doubt that our campaign against imperialism is in fact an inclination of two totally different and contradictory systems toward each other. However, this campaign should be in the economic field. Therefore, we should pay more attention to this field because if we cannot succeed there, the beginning we have achieved will not grow any stronger.

[Musavi] We are always combating that which appears to be unhelpful to our systems. I do not believe we should surrender under such circumstances. However, there are several events which affect this course of action and we must look into them. I agree that foreign powers want to take advantage of our shortcomings and capitalize on the economic and cultural relations we inherited from the former regime — for example, the foreign radios campaign to revive Western music and "teenagerism" free of any moral bindings. Those connected with the former regime and the values reigning in those days try to make the best of the opportunity and take advantage of these foreign radio broadcasts.

As for economic problems, let me show you the work of a Western research institute. As a matter of principle, in their research foreign powers try to acknowledge the effective role played by people in the interest of the revolution and their economic efforts. On this basis they analyse the risks one may undergo investing capital in Iran. They also discuss whether or not more research is needed in the country's foreign trade and also whether the country is heading toward free trade or monopolistic policies. They then deal with individuals on the basis of their analyses and naturally speak highly of a person who opens the country's trade doors to them. Actually their conclusions are correct and if we do not perform well in this field, we would have to face difficulties.

In Article 44 of the Constitution, a limit is placed on foreign trade, but they also have to face the danger of experts who have done studies and who have had the experience of the past 150 years. In my opinion, if this article were drafted based on necessity, this necessity would continue as long as we are engaged in combat with the world oppressors. It is therefore necessary to be in full control of the foreign trade policy. However, we have also had great success during the course of the revolution. For example, the then High Council of Economics forecast in January-February 1978 that to run the country efficiently they would need foreign exchange of $40 billion, while income from non-oil exports was estimated at $4 billion. In other words, the government had to meet this deficit of $36 billion through the sale of oil. With this policy the country would have suffered the fate of Brazil, Argentine and.... in other words, the country would have been swallowed by the United States.

After the revolution we changed the system of estimating foreign exchange requirements. In the past system they estimated the oil income at $36 or $24 billion in normal conditions and suffered greatly if conditions were not stable. But despite pressures and hardships, like the war, we have been able to run the country with $15 billion; this indicates that we have made changes in past policies. This also shows that with the changed policy we will not be harmed, and our dependence on the global economic policies has decreased. At present we are dealing with the conspiracy of lowering the oil price. But many countries announced that if the

prices remain low governments may fall . We do not believe that any price change will have the slightest effect on the stability of our system, in our determination to continue the war until victory, or in continuing to expand the revolution. Moreover, we do not see any fear in our government or in the Majlis. This is due to our gradual self-reliance. However, our relationship to these policies and global fluctuations have not totally ended and we still have a long way to go to reach economic independence. Similarly, our industry also is greatly dependent, but the nucleus of autarky in various industries has been set up and research work and manufacturing of accessories has been accepted as a tradition in the factories. Moreover, there no longer are expectations of large amounts of foreign exchange and import of all industrial tools. Now we support providing for the industrial infrastucture and reliance on local raw material. However we still have difficulties. Other problems involve consumption in our society. The consumption pattern has not yet been molded on the basis of the national income and the foreign exchange income. We see consumption growing in all areas of our lives and even in industrial planning. This offers hope and an opportunity to the West and the big powers. For example, the consumption of cloth at 18 meters per person equals about 19 million meters and only 600 to 700 million meters is produced locally. If we change the consumption pattern to 15 meters, we may not need to import 200 to 300 million meters of cloth. [figures as published] In other words, if every family economizes in their use of cloth, then the need to import cloth will cease. Similarly, if the housing pattern is changed and we change the infrastucture of housing, keeping in mind the shortage in construction material, it is certain that housing facilities will be available to comparatively more persons and our dependence will also lessen. The pattern of consumption has not undergone any change in our system so far. This is because there is no strong move to do so in the government. I believe that the system that encourages consumption has been knowingly or unknowingly kept up and I regret to say that sometimes this system is defended by some. In practice, if the system of consumption is not changed and no propaganda is done to change the present situation, the steps taken by the government in this respect will be challenged. For example, if the consumption of 900 million meters of cloth is reduced to 600 million meters — of course, we have no such plan in mind — it will effect various factors in the distribution and production system, even the cloth patterns. I feel that the mass media can play a great role in changing the consumption pattern, because the consumption pattern also opens doors for inviting imperialistic influence. This door should be closed.

[Correspondent] Cultural problems and other difficulties regarding consumption and the need to change the pattern of comsumption in society — do you think that these matters can only be resolved through press propaganda? Since the victory of the revolution 7 years have passed but we have not been able to achieve any fixed position regarding our major problems or our economic policies and their infrastucture. For example, we still do not know whether we should plan our economic policies on the basis of the three sectors — the public, the cooperatives, and the private — as stated in our Constitution, or on the basis of what some people believe, which is that our economic policies be framed on the basis of the work of the private sector. Keeping these factors in mind, how can there be a change in the consumption patter?

[Musavi] What is specified in the Constitution is that there should be no rivalary between these three sectors. When we are able to place these three sectors alongside each other in a perfect way, our difficulty will be resolved. Now there is a belief that if the government leans toward the private sector, it is said that the public sector has become weak, and if a step is taken toward the public sector, they say that the private sector has become weak. No one looks at this problem in such a way that they might see that these two sectors are not rivals. On the other hand, the legal vacuum regarding distribution, foreign trade, land, and income tax creates difficulties. Last year the Majlis passed a law on income tax. The law specified that in the event of nonpayment of income tax by those liable to pay it, some restrictions should be placed on them. But all our problems do not stem from this subject. I think we should constantly be prepared to condemn Westernization among the people and in the Third World countries. This is not a disease which can be uprooted in one move. Prior to the revolution, we saw that the discussion on the return to the Islamic identity had raised a hue and cry. There is no reason that today we should not deal with this problem using all means at our disposal. It is regrettable that at present no serious action is being taken in this respect, and it looks as if the discussion on this question has ended and there is no longer any danger of Westernization; this disease may have retreated inside its shell. In other countries this disease has taken serious form. Therefore, in view of our experiences, we should constantly be expressing our views on this matter and also should revive the discussion. Guests and scholars who visit Iran look for texts on this subject so that they may translate them into their own language and take them back to their own country to bring changes among their people. Unfortunately, recently we have done nothing regarding this that could be of use to them. Of course the imam's speeches in this respect make up for several lapses. However it is necessary for the universities and seminaries to deal with this subject and to think of ways to combat Westernization.

[Correspondent] You have referred to the question of Westernization. What model should be followed which is not influenced by Western culture, but is influenced by the rich Islamic culture, and which also may deal with the peculiar problems of the Third World countries? For example, regarding industrial and economic expansion, members of your government take South Korea or Japan as their models, forgetting that the progress Japan has made has been due to complete recognition and acceptance of Western culture. Therefore, we see that the programs being carried out in the present circumstances do not deal with the peculiar difficulties of the oppressed countries and the culture ruling them. How could we explain the weakness we have in this respect, especially when it is we who have adopted this path?

[Musavi] In mentioning the model you mean in regards to economic questions, then the brother who visits those countries may have some particular subject in mind. I do not think that our brother visits South Korea to make it a model for us. Our government policy will in no way accept Japan, South Korea, or any other such country as its model. With our experiments and policies of trial and error, we try to become a model for others. We are capable of this in view of our intellectual and creative qualities. At present there is no country in the world that could serve as a model for our economic polices. There is, however, a

matter of principle. For example, let us look at the industrial field. Industry can be strengthened if first the economic field is put on the right track. At present the government is engaged in strengthening its economic policies. This could be done in several ways. At present the Ministry of Jihad and the Ministry of Agriculture are engaged in various programs to help the regime in its economic policies. Some of the programs they follow are: Strengthening the mother industry, finding the correct relationship between the mother industry and the consumer industry, making more use of domestic resources, expanding the gas and petrochemical industry, and trying to raise agricultural output. In all these activities it is evident that the government is not following any economic policies of the countries you mentioned , because we consider all those countries dependent. If the United States for a moment withdraws its favor from them, I think they would not be able to stand on their feet for more than a day or 2.

We believe, God willing, that our country will move toward a situation that if the whole world imposes economic sanctions against it, it will, through its domestic resources and capabilities, stand firm on its feet.

But in the field of culture, I think we have a program and the people are moving according to this program. The system governing this program is surely against Western or Eastern cultures. However, this program, and this framework which is large and fate-determining, should not cause us to ignore the microbes which have found their way into our society. These microbes may have been left for us by the former regime or they might have found their way into our country from abroad. We should always act as a healthy man would. He will investigate the infection within his body. If he does not attend to this disease quickly, he will be harmed by it. We should also act like this. If we see a trend toward luxuries, easy living, and carelessness in our society, then we should deal with it as if we are dealing with a deadly disease. Although at present we have nothing to fear at our Al-Faw front, if we do not look into the above diseases now and remedy them, after a lapse of about 10 years they may bring the revolution to a halt. Therefore, we must operate upon such diseases and remove them from our body. This fact should be kept in view by intellectuals, clergy, and the mass media, and in no case should there be any complacency in this respect. All that the government can do in this respect is to conduct propaganda. The government requests of its members that they condemn luxurious living in their talk, speeches, and propaganda. However, I think that this rests more in the hands of elements outside the government and in a free society. In my view this campaign should first be started by the clergy, newspapers, and the mass media because they can play a very sensitive role in this field.

[Correspondent] Some of the policies of the government are working toward stabilizing the past system of consumption. In fact we see that this is a remnant of the past. This may possibly be due to a lack of power to deal decisively in this respect and to ignorance about the long-range policies of the government in this field. Of course, we can see unavoidable factors in this connection and we accept them, but it seems that of the two policies — bad and worse — we prefer the bad one, for example: TV propaganda, the policy of selling gold coins, the selling of Nissan patrol cars, and various other facilities which have become essential under the present circumstances. But such decisions are only whitewash. Take for example the gold pieces which are sold to reimburse the rial currency of the government; we should investigate the real reason for the deficiency in rial reserves and should work to remove the cause. Another problem is the matter of revolution in our administrative machinery, about which discussions were held at the start of the revolution. Similarly, we must look into the question of the close relations linking production, imports, distribution, and consumption. It is apparent that we cannot bring about a change in the consumption sector without bringing about major changes in all other sectors. In fact, we should follow the consumption pattern of the imam. We recollect that during the start of the imposition of economic sanctions against our country the imam raised the question of fasting and said: We are the offsprings of "Ashura" [the 10th day of Moharram, the day of the martyrdom of imam hoseyn] and the month of fasting. The question now is that the Islamic consumption pattern should be the same as that followed by our youth at the battlefronts. However, the policies which we now see are primarily meant for the urban population of the middle class. I believe that we need a policy for the whole society which excludes no class.

[Musavi], I accept this. This problem can be divided into two parts. One part relates to the executive policies of the government which result in lawmaking, and the other part relates to the social aspect of the question, in other words to the same deep cultural factors which, as you said, spring from the revolution, battlefronts, and Al-Faw. This is a thing which we should propagate through our speeches, talks, and the mass media. I believe that we do not invest much in this regard. Take for example propaganda through television. At times we speak of the battlefronts, the movement of combatants, our economic system, and of our warning to the general public against unnecessary consumption. On the other hand, the Voice and Vision in its advertisements encourages consumption simply because it needs some income. It also advertises some items of consumption of which we do not approve. It was decided that we should write to Mr Hashemi [managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting] in this connection. I hope this criticism does not hurt the feelings of the brothers working in the Voice and Vision who I am sure go to great pains in broadcasting their programs. I hope they will not take it seriously and deprive us of their good programs. They should work out a good consumption pattern for themselves and should do with the appropriation which the government fixes for them; in other words, they should operate within the government allotment.

I recall martyr Raja'i [Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i] who was a model whenever the question of shortages arose. I will relate a story for the benefit of my brothers. Once a discussion was held in the Supreme Defense Council on a certain military operation. The brothers from the Army and the Guards Corps who took part in this discussion insisted that a certain operation must take place. I think this discussion took place prior to the Bostan operation. This debate was carried out in two sessions. In the first session, he said that the commanders who had to attend the second meeting must bring a war plan. When the commanders arrived for the second meeting, one of them submitted an operations plan with which he was very happy and felt it was a very good plan. When he concluded the presentation of his plan, he said: Of course, we need some military hardware for this operation. He

then gave a list of the items needed for the operation which included hundreds of tanks, artillery guns, aircraft and ..... Mr Raja'i then said: The commanders are excused, and when they come next they should submit a plan knowing full well that we will no supply them with tanks, guns ..... and they should submit an operations plan which can be implemented with material presently at our disposal. They also should ensure that the operation succeeds. Our brothers came to the next meeting and I think the Bostan operation which was discussed. It was after that meeting that the miracles of hiding in sand and rising behind the enemy and similar other initiatives were seen.

In fact our present position is similar. In other words, the Voice and Vision, and in principle all other organizations, should make do with what we have in our possession and produce the best results.

With regard to the budget bill, let me say that we have inherited a system of administration which is not easy to alter. It is not an easy task to break up a system that has to deal with a manpower of 1.5 million people, with the average family size being 5 members [figures as published]. The drafting of the budget bill, as was seen in the Majlis debates, has been done with utmost parsimony. The Majlis itself has added 13 billion tomans [one toman equals 10 rials] in various sectors and in this connection we do not see eye to eye with them because we believe that to find this income would be a difficult task. In any case, whatever the Majlis decides the government will have to abide by. That which the government has submitted in its budget bill constitutes the real needs of the country and we do not think there is anything in it which may be contrary to the aspirations of the Islamic revolution. We firmly believe that whatever has been submitted by the government in the budget bill is based on the necessities of the war and the revolution and for tasks connected with the advancement of the revolution.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister: Our last question concerns political forces. At present, various political forces exist in the form of individuals or groups in society. What is your evaluation of these political forces? What are the possibilities for their participation in various dimensions in the country?

[Musavi] In my opinion every noninterfering political force which accepts the present system of government should be allowed to participate and they should be utilized. However, we should not take the risk of making use of this force at the price of sacrificing the framework of ideology and the Hezbollahi force which is dominant in the country at present. The stability of the Hezbollahi forces should be allowed to remain because it has been acquired at the cost of a great many sacrifices. Martyr Beheshti is one of them. Raja'i and Bahonar are also in the same martyr group. This must remain as it is. However, all forces which can serve the country in any possible way should be welcomed with open arms and used wherever needed. The policy of the government is the same. Whenever we hold talks with such forces during Cabinet meetings, we always make room for their views while safeguarding the original framework. Your question may have another meaning also. I think that in religious matters our society should respect the views of others who may differ. We encourage everyone to tolerate the opinions of each other and to work together. The mission and message of the revolution and the dangers threatening it requires that all the forces join hands and work together.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2427

LD011616 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA — Naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran intercepted a cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for the Iraqi regime in the Strait of Hormuz at 0432 a.m. (0102 hours GMT) Tuesday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2427 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the naval forces guided the ship to a southern port for thorough inspection.

In the southern fronts, the communique added, the Islamic forces of Iran strengthened their positions and opened fire on motor pools and tank emplacements of Iraqi forces Monday, inflicting considerable casualties and damages on the enemy.

Iranian Muslim combatants exchanged heavy artillery fire with Iraqi forces in the Majnun Island and captured three Iraqi soldiers after clashing with an ambush floating unit of the enemy forces, said the communique.

It said that Iranian forces checked reconnaissance flight of Iraqi helicopters an Al-Faw region and halted enemy engineering operations elsewhere in Nahr Anbar.

Industrial centers and oil installation of Iraqi townships of Banmil and Naft Khaneh suffered major damages when hit by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces, according to the communique.

In areas overlooking Sumar, Iranian artillery fire forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee while sustaining casualties and damages, said the communique, adding that Islamic forces also disturbed or halted enemy engineering operations in Helaleh and Kani Sheykh.

In the northwestern fronts, it said, the Islamic forces of Iran successfully carried out 40 combat-patrol and reconnaissance missions in suspicious areas and sensitive parts of Iraqi forces.

They also shelled enemy positions killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and demolishing several gun emplacements of theirs.

The artillery fire of Iranian muslim troops also checked movements and transportation of Iraqi convoys and command vehicles in Sayyid Sadiq, Panjwin, Bani Banuk, and Shanadari, according to the communique.

Mdanwhile, the Iraqi long-range artillery fire continued pounding the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Monday damaging some locations in the city.

'Scheme' Against Gulf Hatched With Libya, Syria

GF011840 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] The Voice of the Liberation of Iran correspondent in Tehran reports that in the days following the Nowruz holidays, a fresh scheme was hatched to establish an Islamic peoples' union [ettehad-e jamahir-e eslami] with the participation of representatives of the Syrian, Iranian, and Libyan regimes. The draft of this plan was sent by the regime's Foreign Ministry to Jamaran for final ratification. According to this plan, which in essence has been prepared against the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms, each of these three regimes aim at establishing a form of theological imperialism and will jointly endeavor to consolidate it and spread it in certain continents.

According to this troika, consisting of Syria, Libya, and Iran, all kinds of arsonist activities, assassinations, assaults, and aggression have been declared legitimate and compulsory by giving them an Islamic license and justification. According to this report, the main targets of this joint venture by Tehran, Tripoli, and Damascus include some countries in Africa, Asia, the Far East, the Middle East, and in particular, the Persian Gulf.

Val-Fajr-9 Operations in Kurdistan Reportedly 'Fail'

GF011550 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Reports from informed sources in Tehran indicate that the Islamic Republic's "Val-Fajr-9" operations in Kurdistan have failed. Analysts say the communiques issued by the Islamic Republic confirm this fact.

Tehran official military communiques on the operations in Kurdistan are now limited to reports of nighttime hit-and-run missions from inside the country into Iraqi territory and then returning to base. At the start of the "Val-Fajr-9" operations the Islamic Republic had announced that it had occupied hundreds of kilometers of land in Iraqi Kurdistan.